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NEGATIVE BURN

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MARTIN CONAGHAN
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GARY DUMM
IAN EDGINTON
PAUL ERICKSON
PAUL FRICKE
MICHAEL GAYDOS
JON HAWARD
ANDY KUHN
SEAN MCKEEVER
MIKE PERKINS
FRANK QUITELY
JOEY ROBINSON
ALEX RONALD
DUANE SCHILZ
TED SLAMPYAK
MATTHEW SMITH
DAVE TAYLOR
JASON THOMPSON
JOE ZABEL

64 PAGES

Joe Pruett / Editor
VOLUME ONE • NUMBER THIRTY-EIGHT

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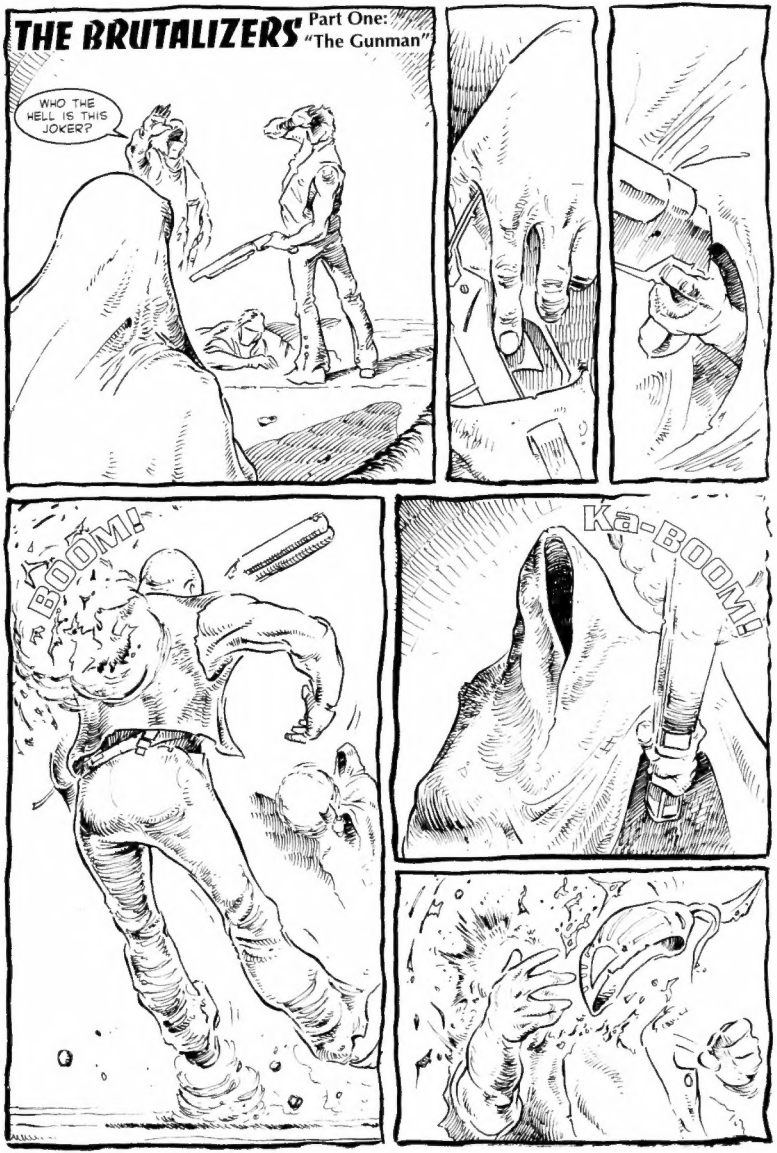
KNEW
HEY, BUGS! THIS ONE'S TRYING TO MAKE A GETAWAY.

I THOUGHT WE KILLED 'EM ALL!
GUESS NOT.
HE'S NOT MUCH SPORT, IS HE?
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT BACK THERE, EITHER.
..MMF... HGFF...
C'MON, MAN, I SAY WE FINISH HIM OFF AND CATCH UP WITH T-JOE AND THE REST.
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
IF YOU PULL THAT TRIGGER, YOU BOTH DIE NEXT.
WHAT?..


THE BRUTALIZERS Part One: "The Gunman"
WHO THE HELL IS THIS JOKER?
BOOM!
Ka-BOOM!

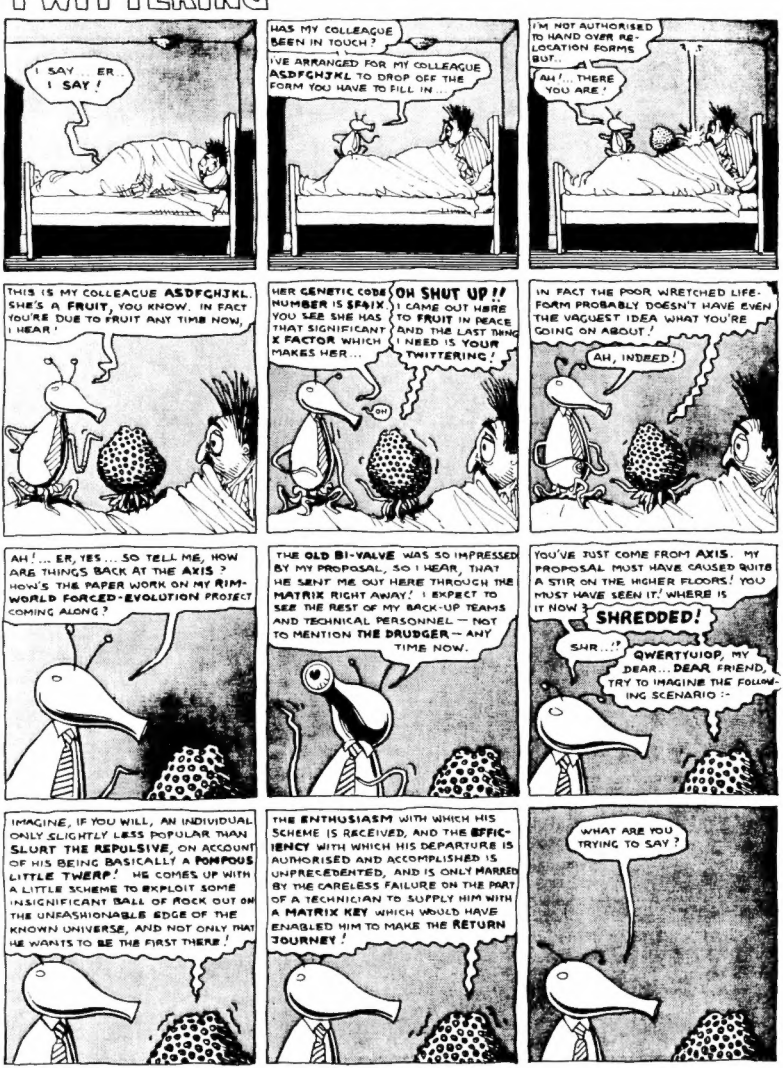
YOU BEST GET UP.
MLEG'S BIN ...SHOT...
THMP

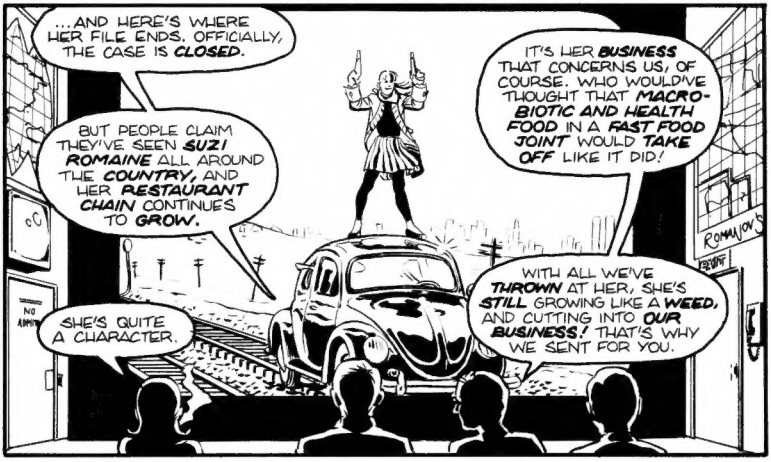
NOT MY PROBLEM.
WHAT WERE YOU PEOPLE DOING OUT THIS FAR ANYHOW?
FUEL HUNTING... FOR OUR TOWN... GENERATOR.
WE LIVE ABOUT SIXTY KYLES SOUTH OF HERE.
DOES YOUR TOWN HAVE A WATER SUPPLY?
UH... YEAH-- WHY?
FOOD?
YEAH, BUT I DON'T UNDERST--
--GOOD, GET ON--I'LL TAKE YOU BACK.

UH, I'M EH-- KENZO BY THE WAY.
I'LL TELL YOU--I REALLY THOUGHT I WAS DEAD FOR SURE BACK THERE.
THOSE BRUTALIZERS WILL COME BACK, YOU KNOW--THEY'LL BE LOOKING FOR YOU.
GOOD-- LET THEM COME.
I'LL BE READY FOR THEM.
End of Part One
Next: "Brutalizers"

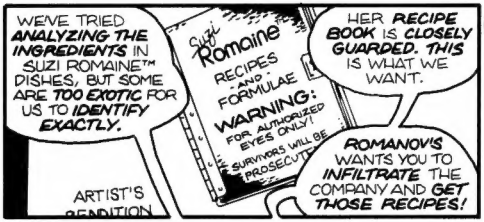
MR. MAMOULIAN

TWITTERING


I SAY... ER I SAY!
HAS MY COLLEAGUE BEEN IN TOUCH?
I'VE ARRANGED FOR MY COLLEAGUE ASDFGHJKL TO DROP OFF THE FORM YOU HAVE TO FILL IN...
I'M NOT AUTHORISED TO HAND OVER RE-LOCATION FORMS BUT...
AH! THERE YOU ARE!
THIS IS MY COLLEAGUE ASDFGHJKL. SHE'S A FRUIT, YOU KNOW. IN FACT YOU'RE DUE TO FRUIT ANY TIME NOW, I HEAR!
HER GENETIC CODE NUMBER IS $F01X. YOU SEE SHE HAS THAT SIGNIFICANT X FACTOR WHICH MAKES HER...
OH SHUT UP!! I CAME OUT HERE TO FRUIT IN PEACE AND THE LAST THING I NEED IS YOUR TWITTERING!
OH
IN FACT THE POOR WRETCHED LIFE-FORM PROBABLY DOESN'T HAVE EVEN THE VAGUEST IDEA WHAT YOU'RE GOING ON ABOUT!
AH, INDEED!
AH!... ER, YES... SO TELL ME, HOW ARE THINGS BACK AT THE AXIS? HOW'S THE PAPER WORK ON MY RIM-WORLD FORCED-EVOLUTION PROJECT COMING ALONG?
THE OLD BI-VALVE WAS SO IMPRESSED BY MY PROPOSAL, SO I HEAR, THAT HE SENT ME OUT HERE THROUGH THE MATRIX RIGHT AWAY! I EXPECT TO SEE THE REST OF MY BACK-UP TEAMS AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL — NOT TO MENTION THE DRUDGER — ANY TIME NOW.
YOU'VE JUST COME FROM AXIS. MY PROPOSAL MUST HAVE CAUSED QUITE A STIR ON THE HIGHER FLOORS! YOU MUST HAVE SEEN IT! WHERE IS IT NOW?
SHREDDED!
SHR...!?
QWERTYUIOP, MY DEAR... DEAR FRIEND, TRY TO IMAGINE THE FOLLOWING SCENARIO :-
IMAGINE, IF YOU WILL, AN INDIVIDUAL ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS POPULAR THAN SLURT THE REPULSIVE, ON ACCOUNT OF HIS BEING BASICALLY A POMPOUS LITTLE TWERP! HE COMES UP WITH A LITTLE SCHEME TO EXPLOIT SOME INSIGNIFICANT BALL OF ROCK OUT ON THE UNFASHIONABLE EDGE OF THE KNOWN UNIVERSE, AND NOT ONLY THAT HE WANTS TO BE THE FIRST THERE!
THE ENTHUSIASM WITH WHICH HIS SCHEME IS RECEIVED, AND THE EFFICIENCY WITH WHICH HIS DEPARTURE IS AUTHORISED AND ACCOMPLISHED IS UNPRECEDENTED, AND IS ONLY MARRED BY THE CARELESS FAILURE ON THE PART OF A TECHNICIAN TO SUPPLY HIM WITH A MATRIX KEY WHICH WOULD HAVE ENABLED HIM TO MAKE THE RETURN JOURNEY!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?


...AND HERE'S WHERE HER FILE ENDS. OFFICIALLY, THE CASE IS CLOSED.
BUT PEOPLE CLAIM THEY'VE SEEN SUZI ROMAINE ALL AROUND THE COUNTRY, AND HER RESTAURANT CHAIN CONTINUES TO GROW.
SHE'S QUITE A CHARACTER.
IT'S HER BUSINESS THAT CONCERNS US, OF COURSE. WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT THAT MACROBIOTIC AND HEALTH FOOD IN A FAST FOOD JOINT WOULD TAKE OFF LIKE IT DID!
WITH ALL WE'VE THROWN AT HER, SHE'S STILL GROWING LIKE A WEED, AND CUTTING INTO OUR BUSINESS! THAT'S WHY WE SENT FOR YOU.
ROMANOV'S
FRONT
NO AMPS

SPEAKING OF WHICH— I'M A GOVERNMENT AGENT. WHY AM I WORKING FOR A RESTAURANT?
YOUR BOSSES OWE US ONE FOR KEEPING QUIET ON THE WHOLE McBANE AFFAIR.


WE'VE TRIED ANALYZING THE INGREDIENTS IN SUZI ROMAINE™ DISHES, BUT SOME ARE TOO EXOTIC FOR US TO IDENTIFY EXACTLY.
ARTIST'S RENDITION
Suzi Romaine
RECIPES AND FORMULAE
WARNING:
FOR AUTHORIZED EYES ONLY!
SURVIVORS WILL BE PROSECUTED
HER RECIPE BOOK IS CLOSELY GUARDED. THIS IS WHAT WE WANT.
ROMANOV'S WANTS YOU TO INFILTRATE THE COMPANY AND GET THOSE RECIPES!

DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET IT!
"WHATEVER IT TAKES?!"
HEY, HOW CAN YOU HURT SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T OFFICIALLY EXIST?

WELL, I'M NOT THRILLED ABOUT THIS...
...BUT I'VE GOT MY ORDERS. ALL RIGHT, BOYS...
JAYNE TERRAYNE IS ON THE JOB!

Suzi Romaine™ IN:
ENEMY TERRAYNE
BY TED SLAMPYAK
EEP EEP EEP
BURGLAR ALARM.
IT SAYS THERE'S A BREAK-IN IN PROGRESS IN MY DESK AT THE OAKDALE LOCATION.
WHAT'S THAT?
OAKDALE? WE JUST LEFT OAKDALE!
SO, ARE YOU GOING TO CALL THE POLICE, AND LET THEM HANDLE IT?
WHAT?
Ha Ha Ha!
RADKA, YOU JUST CRACK ME UP SOMETIMES!
I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE THAT ONE.
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2

IT'S ABOUT TIME SHE LEFT! I'VE BEEN FLIPPING TOFU-BURGERS HERE FOR THREE WEEKS!
BUT SINCE NO ONE SEEMS TO KNOW WHERE SHE IS AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT...
KLIK!
AMARANTH O'MUFFINS
THE ONLY WAY TO BE SURE SHE WOULDN'T BE AROUND WAS TO WAIT 'TIL SHE FINALLY SHOWED UP...

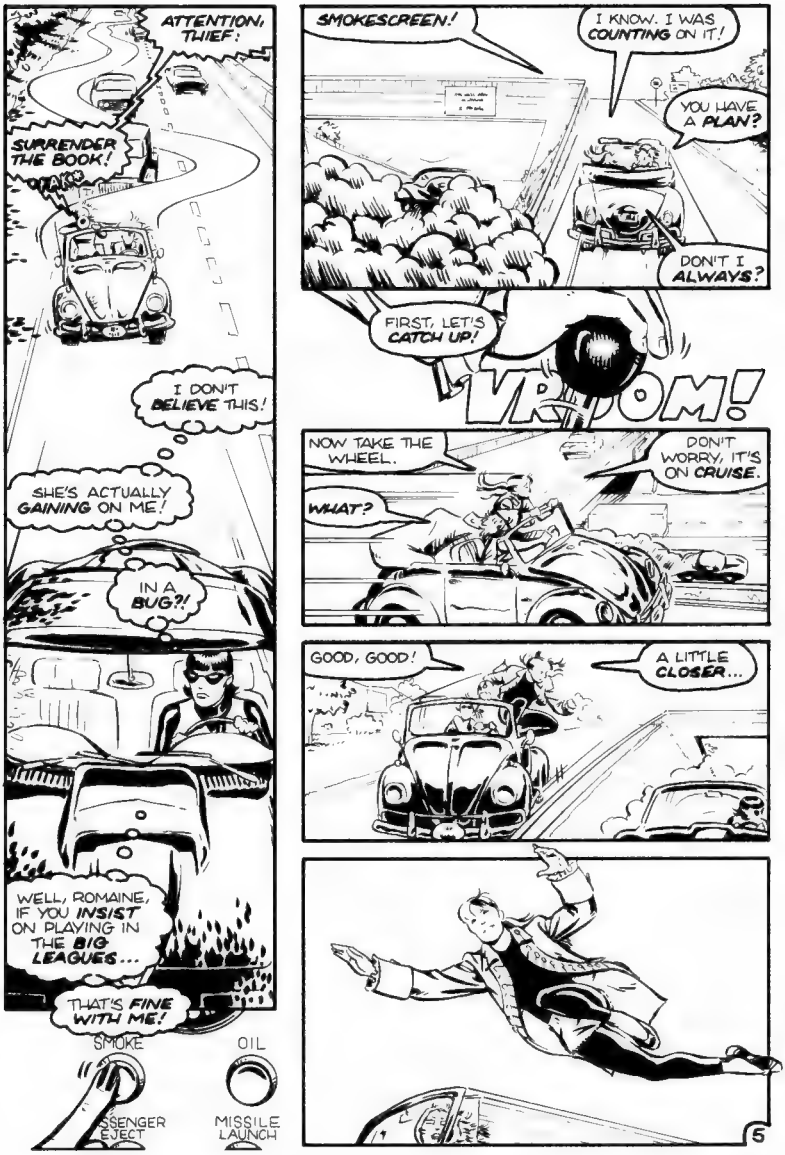
...AND THEN LEFT.
LEARNED A LOT, THOUGH.
SHAME. SHE HAD A GOOD DEAL OF POTENTIAL. IF ONLY SHE HADN'T--
WAIT.
WHAT DID SHE DO WRONG AGAIN?

STOP!
YOU ARE WILLFULLY TRESPASSING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY!
PRIVAT
YOU ARE UNDER CITIZEN'S ARREST! YOU WILL SURREND--

YAAA!
LORD, SHE'S QUICK!

THIS THIEF'S A PRO.

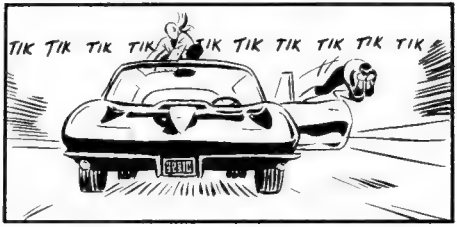
YAAA!
OOOF!
ALL RIGHT, THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO SURRENDER.
PUT YOUR HANDS UP IN THE AIR SLOWLY.
LIKE THIS?!
SHE'S GOT THE BOOK!
BUT BEFORE I GO AFTER HER...
...I'LL NEED SOME EXTRA MATERIEL!
I STARTED THE CAR WHEN I SAW THAT WOMAN RUN OUT!
GOOD THING YOU DID, RADKA! SHE'S GOT THE BOOK!
Suzi Romaine
FAMILY RESTAURANT
OH BOY.
HOW ON EARTH DID SHE GET THROUGH YOUR LOCKS?
SHE'S A PRO, RAD. PROBABLY GOVERNMENT.
OH, DON'T TELL ME THEY'RE AFTER YOU AGAIN?
DON'T THEY EVER LEARN?


ATTENTION, THIEF!
SURRENDER THE BOOK!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
SHE'S ACTUALLY GAINING ON ME!
IN A BUG?!
WELL, ROMAINE, IF YOU INSIST ON PLAYING IN THE BIG LEAGUES...
THAT'S FINE WITH ME!
SMOKE
OIL
SSENGER EJECT
MISSILE LAUNCH
SMOKESCREEN!
I KNOW. I WAS COUNTING ON IT!
YOU HAVE A PLAN?
DON'T I ALWAYS?
FIRST, LET'S CATCH UP!
VROOM!
NOW TAKE THE WHEEL.
WHAT?
DON'T WORRY, IT'S ON CRUISE.
GOOD, GOOD!
A LITTLE CLOSER...
5

PASSENGER
EJECT

TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK

TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK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TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK TIK

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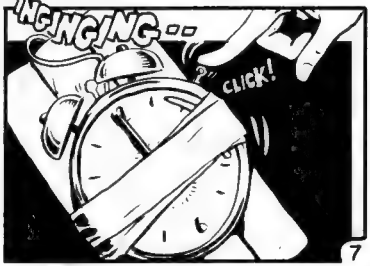

NGING...
CLICK!

...YES, THIS IS AGENT TERRAYNE, SIR.
I'M ON MY WAY BACK.
NO, SIR. IN FACT, IT WAS WORSE THAN UNSUCCESSFUL.

WELL, MY COVER WAS BLOWN, I WAS TAKEN BY SURPRISE, CAUGHT IN THE ACT, FORCED INTO HIGH-SPEED EVASION, AND RELINQUISHED BOTH THE BOOK AND MY CAMERA.
THAT'S WHAT I MEANT BY WORSE, YES, SIR.
THE CAR?

Suzi Romaine™ Family Restaurant
WELL, SIR, YOU'RE REALLY NOT GOING TO LIKE THIS...
Suzi Romaine
FAMILY RESTAURANT™
For Sale Cheap! AS IS! Gov't Surplus!
END

WALK THROUGH OCTOBER
when i was a small boy, i found it easy enough to believe in pure evil...
gunslingers in black leather...
elegantly sinister vampires.
then there were the moral grays of my adult life...
no one was truly EVIL...
just misguided.
that all changed in boston...
when i looked pure evil in the eye...
and it smiled and whispered its name
but that was later...
long after evil met a slight setback...

it's good of you to come.
yes ...
well ...
i could hardly have refused the invitation.

you don't seem too surprised to see me ...
i have to admit some curiosity ...
well ...
you and your self-satisfied little friends usually have better things to do.
i assume that THEY sent you.
for one asinine reason or another ...

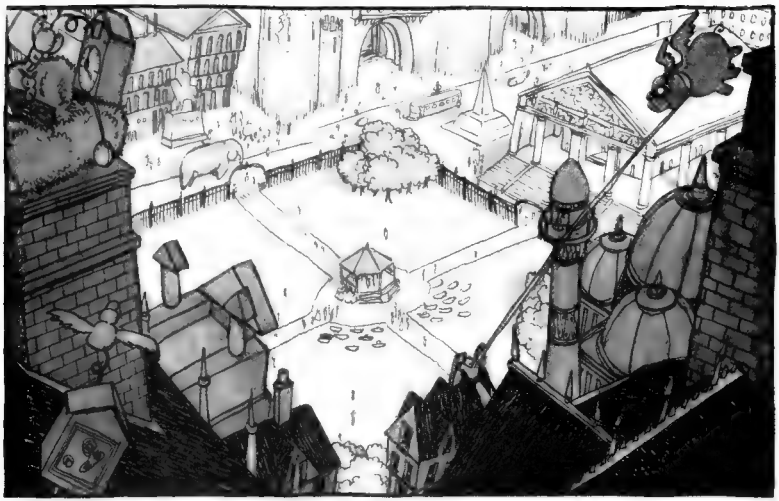
i've been told to give you a warning ...
joke if you want ...
but know this ...
oh my ...
a warning ...
i shake ...
we are watching ...
your ACTIONS will be counted ...
is that ALL ?
how droll ...

bloody angels ...
we have tolerated you for far too long, BALLOON.
fine ...
you've issued your warning ...
now go back to your ivory tower.
go back?
i thought i'd hang around a bit ...
and keep an eye on you ...

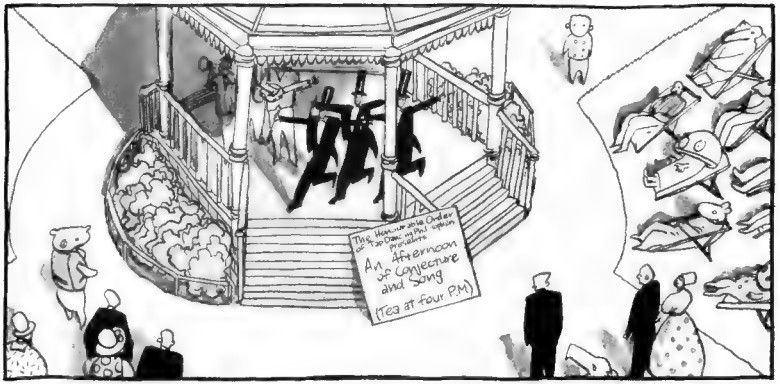
BOREDOM

BILLS, BILLS, BILLS, I CAN'T PAY ANY OF THEM... I'M CALLING MY PSYCHIC FRIEND!
CLICK
TWENTY DIE IN A FIRE. HUNDREDS MORE INJURED. BUT FIRST A CANDIDATE LEARNS TO LINE DANCE.
CLICK
DON'T GO CHASIN' WATERFA..
CLICK
IRREGULARITY, THERE! I SAID IT!!
CLICK
DO YOU HAVE BIG FLOPPY TITTIES AND LIKE TO JUMP ROPE? THEN YOU COULD BE A GUEST...
CLICK
HAVE YOU BEEN INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT BY AN ATTORNEY, THEN CALL THE OFFICES OF,.
CLICK

MEN — LINE 'EM' UP AND SHOOT 'EM ALL. NEXT OPRAH!!
CLICK
NOW BACK TO ACTION THEATER PRESENTS, STEEL MAGNOLIAS II— KILL OR BE KILLED!!
CLICK
DON'T GO CHASIN'...
CLICK
ARE YOU, OR IS SOMEONE YOU KNOW A SERIAL KILLER, . . . WHO NEEDS A MAKEOVER!! CALL 1-800-CARNY
CLICK
DAMN-IT!!
CAN'T YOU SEE I'M WATCHING T.V. OVER HERE!!
KUHN & QUEST 3-96

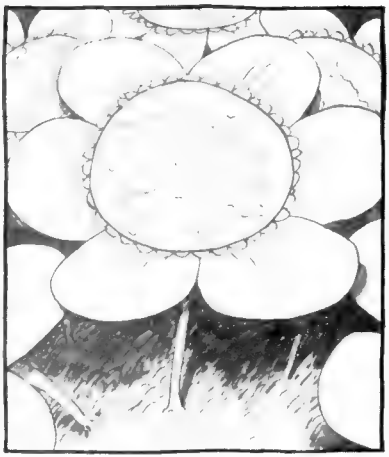


Between the Here-and-Now and the Hereafter...
Between the pen and the page...
There is Castrovalva, city of the twelve shires,
where wonders are as free as air and
impossibilities fall like spring rain.



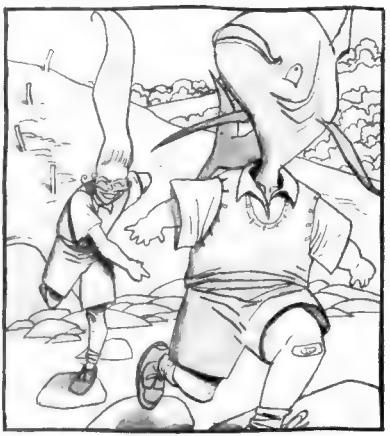
On Sunday afternoons The Honourable Order of Tap-Dancing Philosophers would hoof in heated debate as to the nature of their world.

Opinion deviated wildly. One school of thought proposed it was laid by a marvellous celestial chicken.

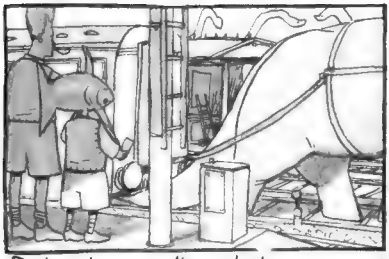


Another, that it grew from seeds in a humus of belly-button fluff and furballs.

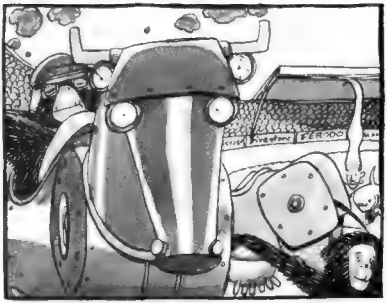
A radical third contended it solely existed in the mind of a small child who'd simply thought them into being.



But to Wavy Davy Dali and Tiny Tom Fish Head this meant little. So long as the sun shone and it snowed at Christmas they were happy.

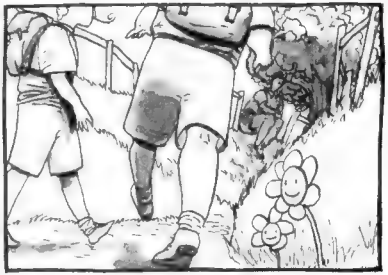


During those endless, balmy summer days there was always something to do.
They could go Dinosaur spotting...



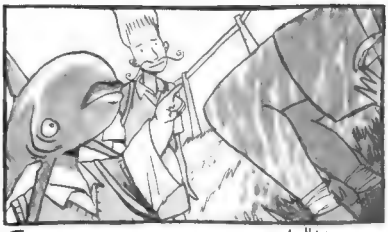
Watch the chimps race their clock-work cows.

Or sometimes earn pocket money by helping harvest babies from the family trees.



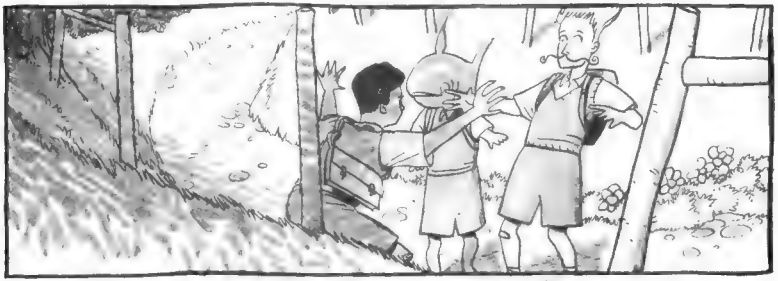
Best of all they would pack up their penknives, balls of string, sandwiches and bottles of pop and go exploring.

It was on one such expedition they met The Boy.
"Hello," said The Boy, "I'm a monster."



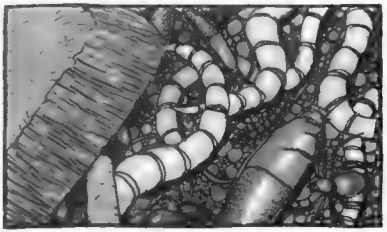
Tiny Tom wasn't convinced. "You can't be," he exclaimed. "Monsters are ugly and vile and live in The Land Under The Bed! You're just a boy."

"Ah yes," he grinned, "but you see I'm ugly and vile on the inside."



"What's it like," enquired Davy, "being a monster?"
"Oh it's great fun" he replied, "if you're clever and quick you can do whatever you like! No-one can stop you!"

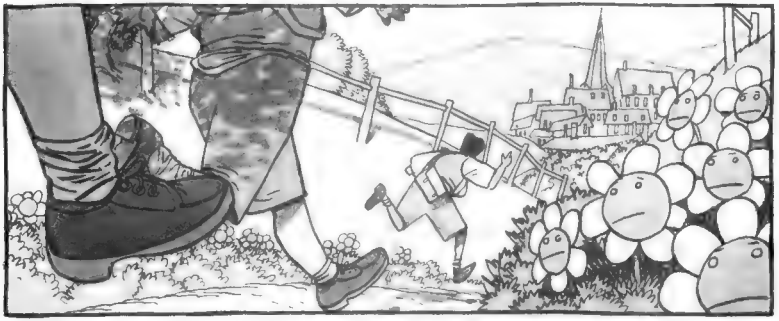
"Aren't monsters supposed to be bad?" asked Tiny Tom.



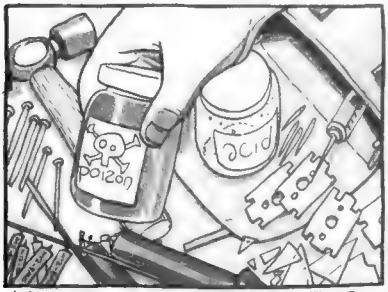
"There have to be monsters!" enthused The Boy, "people expect them. They're the other side of the coin, night after day, the dark face of a stone against the earth."

"It's like a see-saw," he trilled, "You need people on both ends to make it work. Only it's such a laugh being a monster, if everyone knew they'd all want to be one!"

"Could we be one?" chorused the friends "Well ..." mused The Boy, "perhaps, but it's a very responsible job, you must do everything I say."



"We will!" replied the eager pair and with that they raced off to start their work.



When they came to a village The Boy gave them each some things from his satchel.

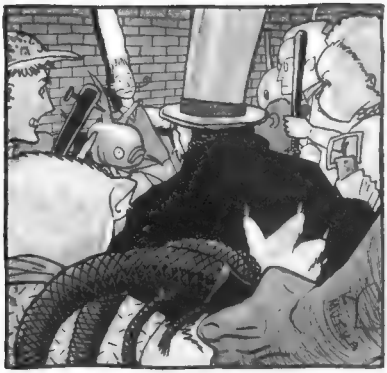
There were needles for a baby's porridge...

Acid for the morning milk...

... and razor blades for the greengrocers wares.

They had such fun. They blinded horses, boiled puppies and turned cats into fiery streaks.

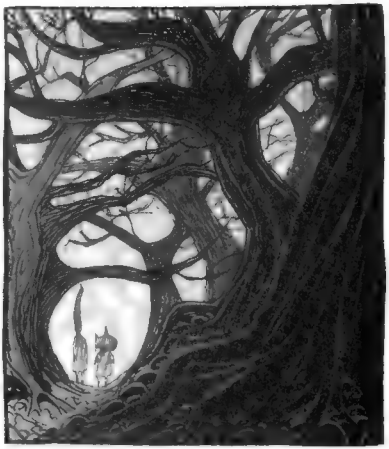
The air was filled with screams and screeches, yells and yowls. There was never such a din before in all the world.



But an angry band knotted and grew. They found the boys and put them on the spot.
When they saw what they'd done, being a monster didn't seem fun anymore. The Boy was nowhere to be found.

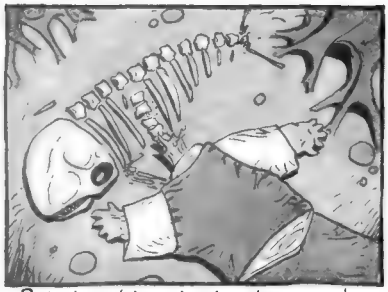
When they tried explaining no one believed them, calling them monsters and liars.
The frightened friends ran away as fast as they could.

They couldn't go home as somehow even there everyone knew what they'd done.



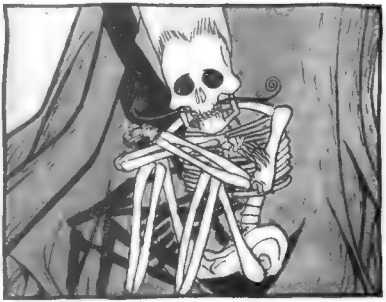
Hungry and scared, they hid in the deep woods around The Land Under The Bed where no-one would dare look for them.

Wavy Davy felt so hungry his stomach hurt. So Tiny Tom Fish Head plucked up his courage and went looking for food for his friend.



But the things in the deep woods found him and he made a dinner for them all.

Wavy Davy Dali, starving and alone sat calling for his friend... and calling.



He called so long he pined away to nothing.

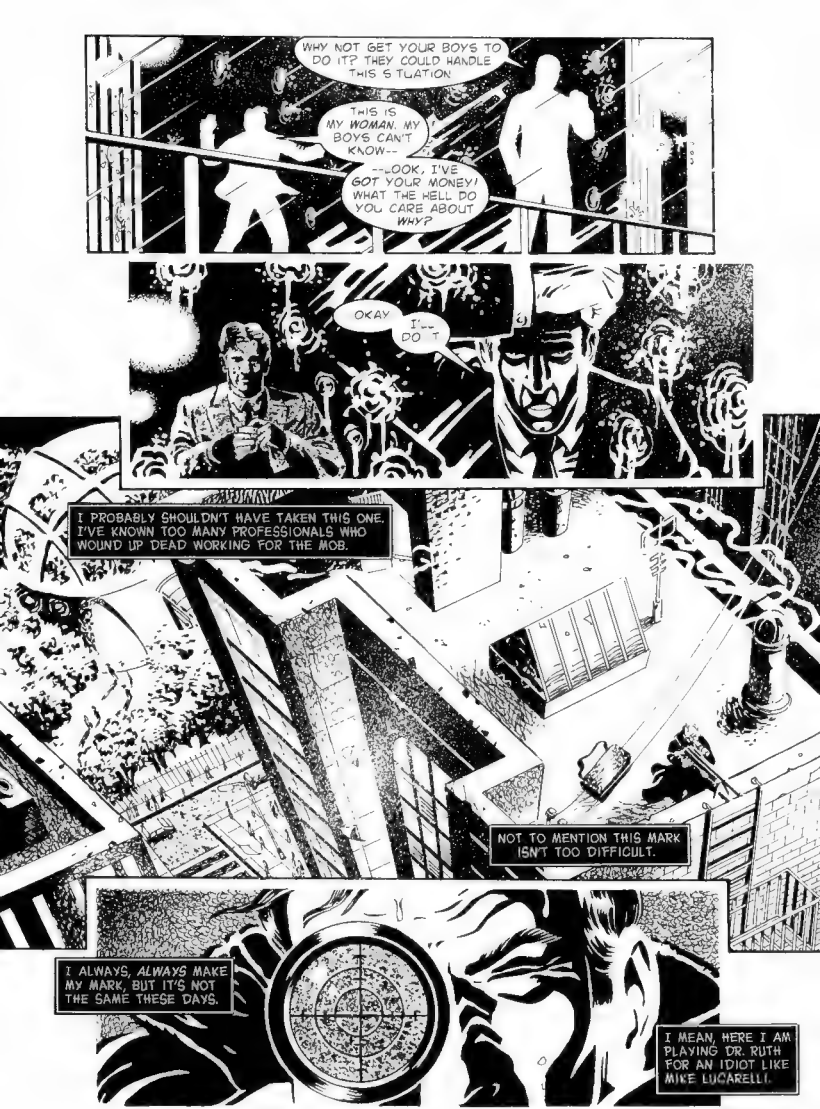
"I told you I was a monster" said The Boy.

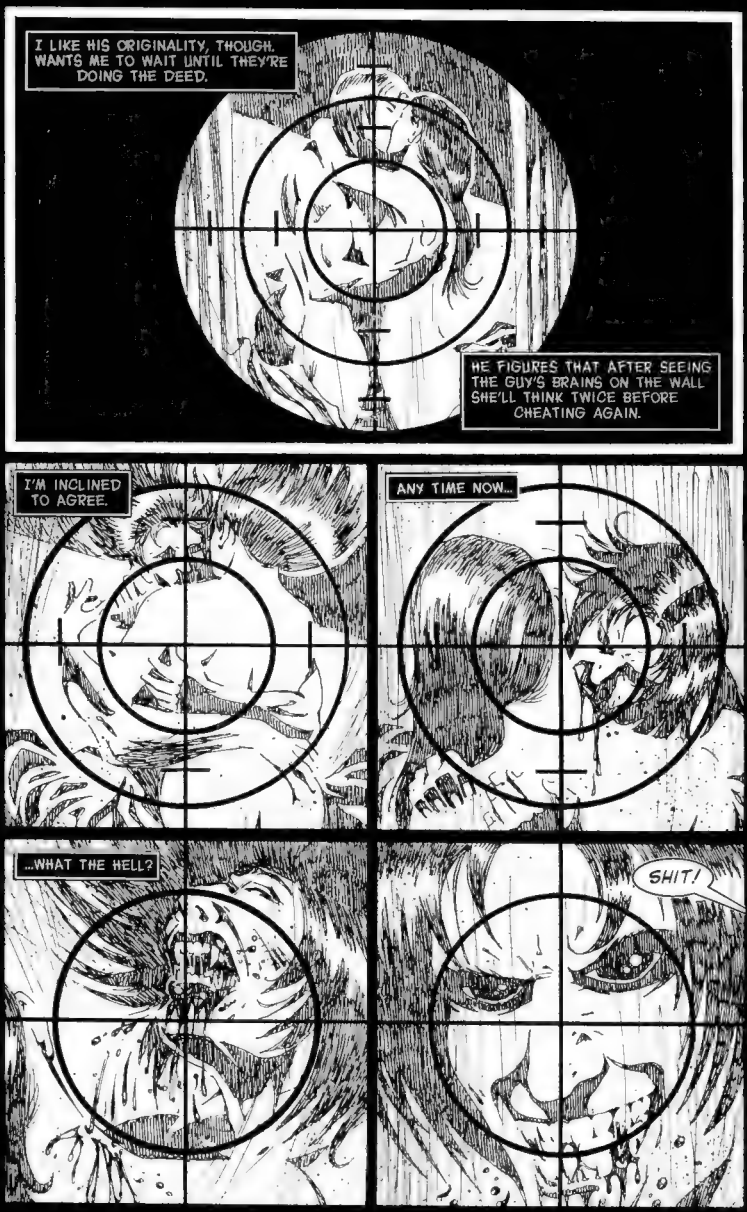
D'End!

ON SALE NOW!

WRITTEN BY IAN EDGINTON
WITH ARTWORK BY D'ISRAELI
AVAILABLE FROM CALIBER COMICS

Making a Mark
AGAIN, I REALLY WANNA THANK YOU FOR SHOWING UP. YOU'RE VERY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. MICKEY SAYS--
--OH, HERE YOU GO--
WRITER - SEAN KELLEY McKEEVER
ARTIST - JON HAWARD
LETTERER - ROXANNE STARR
--MICKEY SAYS YOU GOT A PERFECT RECORD. HE SAYS YOU NEVER MISS.
NOW, I DON'T MEAN ANY DISRESPECT OR ANYTHING, BUT YOU DON'T SEEM--
WHO'S THE MARK?
M--MARK?
OH. THE JOB. WELL, UH, SEE, LINDA, MY WOMAN, SHE'S BEEN SEEING THIS GUY, RIGHT? AND, UM, LIKE MICKEY SAYS--
--YOU'RE THE BEST.


WHY NOT GET YOUR BOYS TO DO IT? THEY COULD HANDLE THIS SITUATION.
THIS IS MY WOMAN. MY BOYS CAN'T KNOW--
--LOOK, I'VE GOT YOUR MONEY! WHAT THE HELL DO YOU CARE ABOUT WHY?
OKAY. I--DON'T
I PROBABLY SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN THIS ONE. I'VE KNOWN TOO MANY PROFESSIONALS WHO WOUND UP DEAD WORKING FOR THE MOB.
NOT TO MENTION THIS MARK ISN'T TOO DIFFICULT.
I ALWAYS, ALWAYS MAKE MY MARK, BUT IT'S NOT THE SAME THESE DAYS.
I MEAN, HERE I AM PLAYING DR. RUTH FOR AN IDIOT LIKE MIKE LUCARELLI.


I LIKE HIS ORIGINALITY, THOUGH. WANTS ME TO WAIT UNTIL THEY'RE DOING THE DEED.
HE FIGURES THAT AFTER SEEING THE GUY'S BRAINS ON THE WALL SHE'LL THINK TWICE BEFORE CHEATING AGAIN.
I'M INCLINED TO AGREE.
ANY TIME NOW...
...WHAT THE HELL?
SHIT!

KA-POW!
SHE'LL NEVER FORGET THAT ONE...
...AND NEITHER WILL I.
THAT WAS EERIE. LOOKED LIKE HE SAW ME.
AND I'VE SEEN KINKY SEX GAMES, BUT IT'S LIKE HE WAS PRETENDING TO BE A--
--VAMPIRE.

BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
SHIT.
SMACK!
SNAP!
:-) UHN :-(
SKREE!
THIS HAD BETTER WORK.
I ALWAYS--

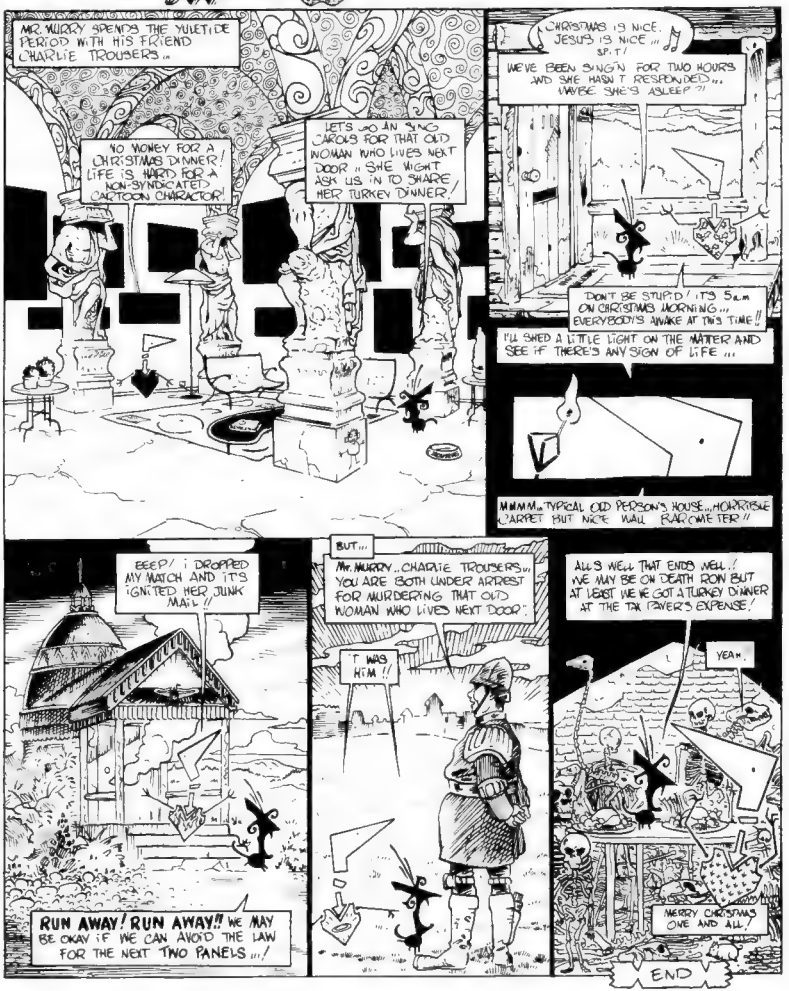
--ALWAYS--
--MAKE MY MARK.
KER-ASH!
SKREEEEEE
ALWAYS.

LINDA?

CHRISSAKES, LINDA, WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG?
I LIT THOSE CANDLES LIKE YOU WANTED--WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT?
OKAY...
...ARE YOU READY?
OH, FOR CRYIN' --YES!
SORRY.
...BUT I WANTED TO LOOK PERFECT FOR YOU.
I AM GOING TO DO THINGS TO YOU, MICHAEL...
...THAT YOU'LL NEVER FORGET.
OH GOD. I CAN'T WAIT...
THAT'S FUNNY, MICHAEL. NEITHER CAN I.
NEITHER CAN I...

MR. MURRAY IN ANOTHER HOLLOW CHRISTMAS

IAN CARNEY & DAVE TAYLOR


MR. MURRY SPENDS THE YULETIDE PERIOD WITH HIS FRIEND CHARLIE TROUSERS...
NO MONEY FOR A CHRISTMAS DINNER! LIFE IS HARD FOR A NON-SYNDICATED CARTOON CHARACTER!
LET'S GO AN SING CAROLS FOR THAT OLD WOMAN WHO LIVES NEXT DOOR... SHE MIGHT ASK US IN TO SHARE HER TURKEY DINNER!
CHRISTMAS IS NICE, JESUS IS NICE... SP. T/
WE'VE BEEN SINGIN FOR TWO HOURS AND SHE HASN'T RESPONDED... MAYBE SHE'S ASLEEP?!
DON'T BE STUPID! IT'S 5am ON CHRISTMAS MORNING... EVERYBODY'S AWAKE AT THIS TIME!!
I'LL SHED A LITTLE LIGHT ON THE MATTER AND SEE IF THERE'S ANY SIGN OF LIFE...
MMMM... TYPICAL OLD PERSON'S HOUSE... HORRIBLE CARPET BUT NICE WALL PAPER/WE TER!!
BEEP! I DROPPED MY MATCH AND IT'S IGNITED HER JUNK MAIL!!
RUN AWAY! RUN AWAY!! WE MAY BE OKAY IF WE CAN AVOID THE LAW FOR THE NEXT TWO PANELS...!
BUT...
MR. MURRY... CHARLIE TROUSERS... YOU ARE BOTH UNDER ARREST FOR MURDERING THAT OLD WOMAN WHO LIVES NEXT DOOR!
I WAS HIM!!
ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL!! WE MAY BE ON DEATH ROW BUT AT LEAST WE'VE GOT A TURKEY DINNER AT THE TAXPAYER'S EXPENSE!
YEAH.
MERRY CHRISTMAS ONE AND ALL!
END

THE IGNORANT LAYMAN

THE MOST INCOMPETENT HERO OF *ALL TIME!*

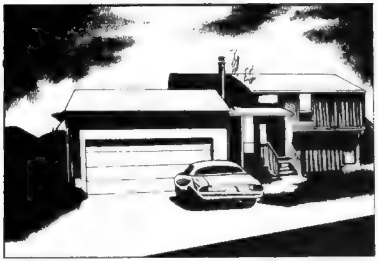
PART 1

"*HELL* HATH NO FURY LIKE A WOMAN KIDNAPPED BY A DEMON FROM *HELL*"

©1996 JASON THOMPSON

"Nebiros--I have a problem. You see, I have just been feeling too GOOD as of late."
WELCOME TO CENTRAL CITY
ERNEST'S
DRIVE-THRU
"I need to be reassured that I'm still evil, and not going soft."
"HOW ABOUT STEALING A BABY FROM ITS CRIB AND FEASTING ON ITS ENTRAILS?"
DRIVE-THRU
Hmmm...
NO, I'm in the mood for something different.
I feel like... like finding a nubile, young woman and marrying her!
BOY, MR. LYLE, YOU ARE GOING SOFT.
ANY IDEA WHO YOU'D LIKE TO MARRY?
Yes, I do! On the telly the other day I saw an interview with a remarkable young woman named Clarissa Ray. Oh, but my loins were filled with VIGOR! Nebby, your job is to search for Miss Ray, and bring her back. Leave immediately.
Yes, it is true. I find that relaxing, and delight very much in eating bagels spread with baby fat, but no.
YES, MR. LYLE.
♫ Suoicodilaipxe~ citsiligarfilac~ repus ♫

Suoiconta etiuq gnihtemos si ti fo dnuos eht hguoht neve
Suoicocerp dnuos syaw-la ll'uoy hguone duol tl yas uoy fi
! Suoicod-ilaipxe-citsiligarf-ilacrepus
BYE-BYE, MR LYLE!



CLINK!
HERE'S TO THE NEW BROWN BELT AND *MARTIAL ARTIST OF THE YEAR!*

THIS HAS AN INTERESTING TASTE. WHAT IS IT?
THEY CALL IT *MELLO YELLO*™

OH! BEFORE I FORGET: I BET YOU CAN'T GUESS WHO IS IN MY LATEST FILM.
JIM KELLY!? WOW!
BRUCE CAMPBELL?
NOPE. BRACE YOURSELF! READY? JIM KELLY.

THAT'S *REALLY COOL*, CLARISSA.
I *THOUGHT* YOU'D BE EXCITED!
WHAT TIME DO YOU HAVE TO BE AT WORK?

DAMN! I TOTALLY SPACED IT! I'D BETTER MAKE SOME EGGS...
...AND *SCRAMBLE!*
BUT FIRST... A *SONG!*

♫ You look like an ♪ angel... Walk ♫ like an angel... Talk like an angel... But I got wise... You're the Devil in disguise! ♪ ♫ ♫
SING IT, *DADDY-O*, SING IT!

I'LL SEE YOU LATER, PETER PALMER!
NOT IF YOU'RE BLIND!

PHYEW! PETER'S A NICE GUY AND ALL, BUT SOMETIME'S HE'S AWFULLY WEIRD!
I FINALLY HAVE SOME TIME TO MYSELF TO READ...
"MEANWHILE PSYCHE, FOR ALL HER MANIFEST BEAUTY, REAPED NO BENEFIT FROM HER PREEMINENCE. SHE WAS GAZED AT BY ALL, PRAISED AND WAZED; BUT NO MAN, KING OR PRINCE OR EVEN COMMONER, RAISED ANY PRETENSIONS TO HER HAND IN MARRIAGE."
CLARISSA RAY...
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF. MY NAME IS NEBIROS, BUT YOU CAN CALL ME NEBBY. ALL MY FRIENDS DO.
ANYHOO!
YOU WILL COME WITH ME NOW.

NOW NOW NOW NOWW!
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT-- YOU APPEAR SUDDENLY FROM OUT OF A DIMENSIONAL RIFT AND EXPECT COOPERATION?
YUP.
BUDDY, YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
I'M GONNA KICK YOUR ASS!
OH YEAH?
YOU GOT IT, JERKY!
HA, HA YOU MISSED ME!!
MISSED ME, YOU MISSED ME, NOW YOU'VE GOTTA--
SHUT UP!

OOOGH! NOW THAT'S A PAIN THAT'LL LINGER, I MUST SAY!
OKAY, BUDDY... WHAT'S THE DEAL-- WHY'RE YOU TRYING TO ABDUCT ME, EH?
CUZ MY BOSS TOLD ME TO, THAT'S WHY! HEY, WHY AM I EVEN TELLING YOU THIS? COME TO THINK OF IT--
--WHY AM I EVEN ENGAGING YOU MANO A MANO? I'M A DEMON, FOR CHRI-- SATAN'S SAKE! DEMONS ARE SPECIAL--
I'M SPECIAL. I HAVE... POWERS. POWERS... BEYOND COMPREHENSION EVEN! POWERS LIKE... LIKE... THIS!
NATURALLY!
I--I CAN'T MOVE!
DAMN, I'M COOL!
♪ Suoicod- ilaipxe- citsiligarf- ilacrepus
♪ THIS IS THE END... OF CHA-APTER ONE. THE END. ♪

THE MAN ON THE ROOF

A TRESPASSERS MYSTERY

STORY BY JOE ZABEL
ART BY JOE ZABEL AND GARY DUMM

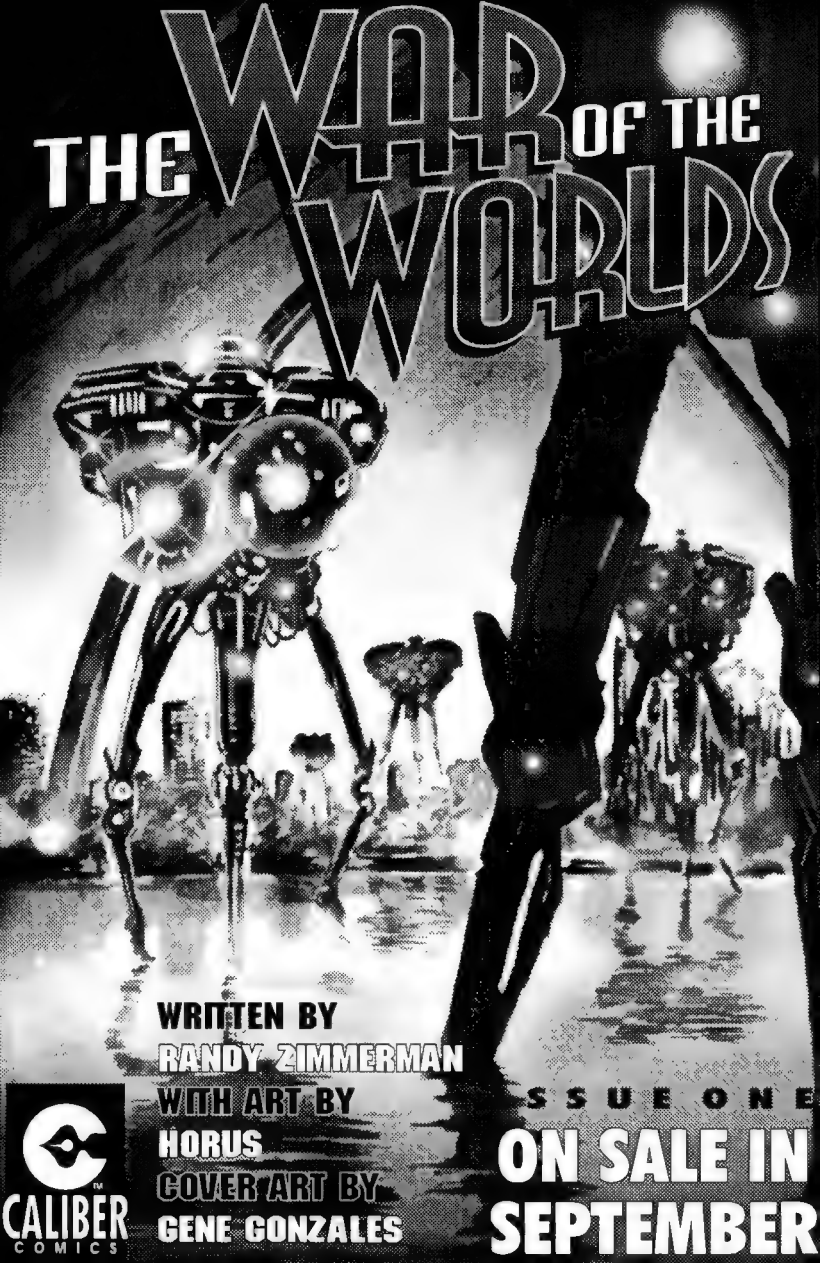
NOW THIS IS WHAT I CALL ROMANTIC!
NOT LIKE THOSE CRIME SCENES YOU USUALLY TAKE ME TO, RAY!
BUT, FINN— I THOUGHT YOU LIKED CRIME SCENES!

IT'S ALMOST 11 PM - THEY MIGHT BE AFRAID TO ANSWER THE DOOR!
I JUST HOPE THEY DON'T SIC THE DOG ON US!
SIR, WOULD YOU PLEASE CALL THE POLICE? WE THINK SOMEONE'S BREAKING INTO YOUR NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE!
THEY ARE?! YOU BETTER COME IN!
NOW TELL ME WHAT YOU SAW.
A BIG GUY ON THE ROOF - HE WAS GOING THRU THE SKYLIGHT.
THE HOUSE UP THE ROAD?
THAT'S RIGHT.
THAT'S THE WALKER'S PLACE. THEY'RE ON VACATION IN FLORIDA, SO I GUESS IT'S A BURGLARY, ALL RIGHT?
I'LL GO MAKE THE CALL YOU WATCH THE HOUSE IN CASE ANYTHING HAPPENS.
O.K!
A MINUTE LATER...
...THE COPS ARE ON THEIR WAY.
LOOK!
THE GUY—
HE'S COMING THIS WAY!

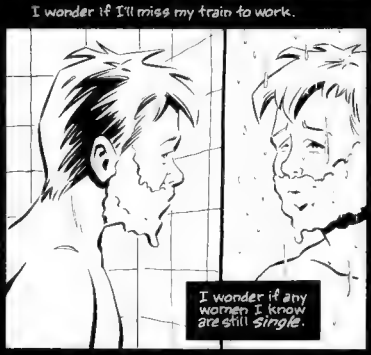
THIS IS GETTING TENSE! DO YOU HAVE A GUN?
MATTER OF FACT, I'VE GOT ONE RIGHT HERE!
KNOCK! KNOCK!
GO ANSWER IT!
THE WALKERS AND THE SMITHS ALWAYS TAKE THEIR VACATIONS TOGETHER!
SURPRISING THE THINGS YOU CAN LEARN HANGING AROUND A TRAVEL AGENCY!
- SO WE'VE GOT A TWO-HOUSE HAUL, PLUS WE CAN WATCH EACH OTHER'S BACKS!
WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO WITH US?
ME AND MY PARTNER ARE GONNA HAVE A TALK ABOUT THAT.
HERE'S SOME CLOTHESLINE, STU.
GOOD. NOW IF YOU TWO WILL STAY IN YOUR SEATS AND COOPERATE, WE'LL TRY TO MAKE YOU AS COMFORTABLE AS POSSIBLE.

DO WE GOT ENOUGH ROPE FOR BOTH OF THEM?
HEY!
OOOFF!
BANG!
SOCKO!
YOU COULDN'T 'VE WAITED?
I DIDN'T WANNA GET TIED UP!
HUH?
YOU SLIPPED UP WHEN YOU WENT INTO THE OTHER ROOM TO 'PHONE THE COPS! THERE WAS AN EXTENSION IN THE LIVING ROOM — SOMEONE LIVING THERE WOULD KNOW THAT!
SO FINN WATCHED TILL YOU HUNG UP, THEN I DIALLED 911 AND STUCK THE RECEIVER UNDER THE SOFA CUSHION. THE COPS WILL TRACE THE CALL AND...
ALRIGHT — PUT THE GUN DOWN!
YOU CAN TELL YOUR SIDE WHEN WE GET TO THE STATION!
HMMPH! SOME WAY TO END OUR EVENING!
ARE YOU KIDDING?
— WHAT COULD BE MORE ROMANTIC THAN A RIDE IN THE BACK OF A SQUAD CAR?
DELPHINIA IS SUCH A LOVELY NAME... A BEAUTIFUL NAME FOR A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN...
KEEP TALKIN', RAY!
THE END

KTHRASH!
A DARK NIGHT...
A DESPERATE CHASE...
...AND SUDDEN DEATH!
THIS IS THE WORLD OF THE MODERN MYSTERY THRILLER...
...AND THE COMIC BOOK THAT BRINGS IT TO YOU IS...
THE Trespassers
A QUARTERLY SERIES BY JOE ZABEL AND GARY DUMM PUBLISHED BY AMAZING MONTAGE PRESS, P.O. BOX 18959, CLEVELAND HTS. OH 44118 0959. SAMPLE COPIES $2 50 PLUS .50 POSTAGE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO JOE ZABEL


THE WAR OF THE WORLDS
WRITTEN BY
RANDY ZIMMERMAN
WITH ART BY
HORUS
COVER ART BY
GENE GONZALES
CALIBER COMICS
SSUE ONE
ON SALE IN SEPTEMBER

NO REGRETS



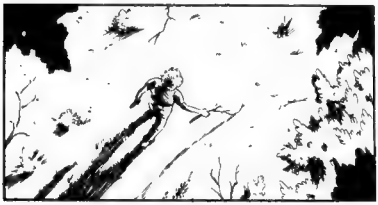
Another great moment clouded with thoughts.

In mid-divorce I came home one night to find my wife with a man I'd never met.
My mind raced.
What do I do?
What do I do
What do I do
I do I DO
I DO
Taking me up the hammer in my hand I am become Thor. Norse blood boiling in viking berserk--
--emiting the tail lights of his Volvo squareback.
I wonder what the neighbors will say
I wonder if the police will be called.
I gave my estranged wife a stern talking-to.
Another great moment clouded with thoughts

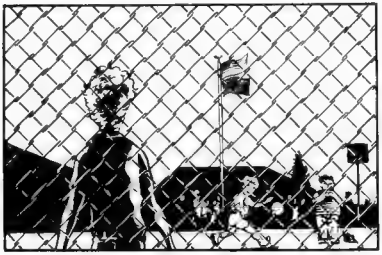
She refused marriage counseling, she knows how these things work.
Every single relative of hers has been divorced, so she's sort of an expert.
My mind raced:
She can't refuse
She can't refuse'
She can't refuse
SHE CAN
SHE CAN'T
Beautiful Ethan Allen furniture crashing bedroom windows--
--her clothes going through next--
--panties and blouses smashing suburban morning stillness, littering my front lawn.
I wonder if that will make my feelings clear?
I wonder if that will poison any possible reconciliation?
I insisted, and she accepted counseling, nominally...
...and it didn't change a thing.
Although I'm glad things worked out the way they did...
It would have been cool to see all her clothes in front of the house
Written by PAUL ERICKSON
NO REGRETS
Drawn by PAUL FRICKE

Mommy's Boy

It's saturday, so there's no school today. mommy says kids don't haf'ta go to school on weekends, so that the teachers can 'recuperate'- whatever that means. I don't much care what the reason is. I'm just glad to be away from that place for awhile.



It's like at school, for some reason, a lot of kids don't like me. they call me names and junk, but I can handle them. I know how to take care of myself. those babies never finish what they start, and I get sent to the principal's office.



a broken home seems like something you'd find after an earthquake. all I know is what mommy said...she said daddy left because he was afraid of something. It was responsibility I think. she always cries when she says his name.

on the way out here, the Johnson's dog really barked at me. one of these days, when they're not home, I'm gonna teach that dog a lesson. mommy says I shouldn't mess with that dog, but like all grown-ups, she doesn't know how much things like that bother me.

the principal always uses words like; 'anti-social' and 'Delinquent', he uses other words too. he says he understands that I come from a broken home and that explains my behavior. mommy agrees with him. sometimes grown-ups don't know anything.

I love my daddy and miss him...I hope someday, I get to meet him.

©1996 ROBINSON, SCHILZ, & SMITH

when I come home from school, mommy is still at work. she always works late. she makes me stay home by myself, I don't think that's right.

sometimes, at night, I hear noises and stuff. mommy says, that this is an old house and all old houses make noise. sometimes, I think that the noises are voices and they're trying to talk to me.

I like to pretend the noises are other kids and we are having a party. I don't feel so lonely when I'm at parties.

I told mommy about my parties and she got real mad. she said it isn't healthy for someone my age to have friends that aren't real. I try not to be a bad boy, but it's hard to be good all the time.

sometimes, when mommy gets really mad at me, she calls me a little monster...

and sometimes, she's right.

BACK iSSUES

NEGATIVE BURN

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LETTERS

Internet: 72164.1134@CompuServe *P.O. Box 893 Acworth,GA 30101*

Edward Douglas
76453.767@compuserve.com

Oooo...lovely Michael Gaydos cover. I tell ya, Michael is another artistic find for Caliber, and I hope that you guys plan on keeping him busy. I'm surprised how many of the Caliber artists are comfortable working in a lot of different art styles, and this cover is very different-looking from his interior work in INFERNO.

Nice to see "Dominique" back after X number of issues; I remember when she was in a lot of the early issues of NB. (#34? Really? Man, how time flies...) Pretty cute that it's written by regular writers Charles and Lisa Moore and then illustrated by another couple, Chris and Angie Hunter. It took me a few pages to get into the story, but it was nice to see a bit of the main characters' past. The Hunters' artwork is okay, although I thought that their layouts could have been a bit more dramatic to match the tone of the story.

Next up is Len Strazewski and Paul Fricke's "Terror Tots"! Cool! I love the concept for this series and I never got a chance to check out the legendary ashcans, so this was a welcome surprise. This is sort of like THE MUPPET BABIES meets ENTER THE DRAGON and is an absolute hoot! I loved this story and found myself laughing hysterically while reading it. That board game was really hilarious, especially the gag about the Prime action figure and all the other inside jokes! I'm glad that Caliber is going to be publishing TERROR TOTS on a regular (?) basis. About time!

"My Marie" by Stephen Cheng was absolutely brilliant stuff. Everyone at one point in their life has had an obsession and the way that Cheng depicts this period in one teenager's life is eerie. This reminded me of the sort of story that Adrian Tomine does in OPTIC NERVE, but this seemed more realistic with less of an attempt to be trendy. One can't help feeling for the main character even though he is rather pathetic. This is definitely one for the next trade, I'd imagine.

I'm going to have to find the time to read Jeff Nicholson's "No Regrets" all in one sitting eventually, as it's a bit hard to keep up with when reading piece meal. (I probably read the last issue two months ago or so; I really need to try to keep up.) Fortunately, I still remember what's been happening without much problem and things gets more interesting as the band gets more entrenched in the dream world. Because of my own music background playing in a band, I think this is a pretty cool series, and I'm not sure where this is leading to, but things seem to be happening all over again that would force the band to break up. Jeff's artwork seems to be noticeably slipping a bit in this episode and the next; they both looked rather rushed. Anyway, it's nice to have some serialized stories in NB; hope this will keep up.

I have no idea what "I, Assassin" was supposed to be about. Artwork was nice, though.

And next up...the artist who should get his own Caliber series! I tell ya, Greg DiGenti would be the next Peter Bagge or Terry Laban if he got his own book! Glad to see that I got a double dose between this issue and the next. "The Origins of the Worm Cult" was a bit of a departure for Greg as it seems to be a historical piece, but it's handled with the same sort of irreverent humor as his other strips. Pretty funny stuff. (The man's a genius!)

"Happenstance" showcases two creators who I'm not familiar with (although the names *do* sound familiar...have they done previous NB work?) but this was an intriguing story, especially for Alwyn Talbot's vividly detailed artwork (related to Bryan, maybe?) which reminds me of the art of Moebius and Geoff Darrow. And that is indeed a complement! The story is poignant and thought-provoking despite its lack of words, and I must say that it's difficult to pull off a story like this without a talented artist. Very nice.

As usual, NEGATIVE BURN plays host to an introductory piece for an upcoming Caliber series and here is a preview for David Boller's KAOS MOON. This is a nice taster—I like the ties with Greek mythology—but the story is a bit short for me, and the ending seemed a bit rushed. It's hard to make any sort of decision on whether I'd be interested in the series itself. Boller has a nice art style which gives this story a unique look, which might be the main reason I'd check it out.

Brian Clopper's "Quentin Who?" was pretty %*#$*@ funny. Pretty much nailed the Tarantino schtick on the first try.

"Poor George": Huh?

Man, you call that a "sketchbook"? Charles Vess draws this beautiful two-page spread and some stunning promo pieces for his upcoming STARDUST with Neil Gaiman and this is considered a *sketchbook*? Wow. If you tell me that these are thumbnails, I will probably flip... What a great artist!

"Paintwork" and "To Get to the Other Side" were quick one-joke strips....pretty much filler IMO.

As before, Matt Smith's "My Life as Riley" is a beautiful autobiographical (?) piece a la Eddie Campbell's ALEC. I enjoyed the last short story in NB, and Brian Horton's artwork brings out a lot of the emotion of the story.

Overall, a terrific issue with a lot of new names providing some interesting looks at life. I got a great kick out of "Terror Tots" but my favorite stories were "My Marie" and "Happenstance".

You want a Greg DiGenti comic. You got a Greg DiGenti comic. Greg will do a one-shot for Caliber next year. Don't know when yet, but it will be there, so watch out for it.

Noel Hannan and Alwyn Talbot have both indeed been in NB before. Noel was the writer of "What Ever Happened to Doc Donovan?" back in #30 and Alwyn did "Untitled" back in #27. Yes, Alwyn is Bryan's son.

Olav Beemer
Zeist, The Netherlands

Dear Joe,

Again fifteen different features! Fortunately for the sake of diversity, these features are distinctly different from those offered last time around, so NEGATIVE BURN #34 again proved to be an interesting treat. It's nice to know that even after about three years, this series is still able to come up with creators that manage to tickle the readers' collective fancy.

"Dominique" turned out to be a great opening tale, in particular since it's been quite a while since I last read a tale featuring my favorite 'gal with a gun.' Chris Hunter delivered some good work in the artistic department and even though the story by Charles and Lisa Moore was a tad too short to be truly inspiring, I had a good time reading it nevertheless. Looking forward for more Dominique appearances either in these pages or in her own one-shot books.

"Terror Tots" was fun, plain and simple. Interesting and hilarious story combined with the always appealing artwork by Paul Fricke truly made this one stand out again, but the proverbial icing on the equally proverbial cake was the two-page spread interactive Terror Tots game. Roll the dice! You bet I'll be checking out the website which was mentioned at the end of this feature to get some more Terror Tots material.

"My Marie," without a doubt, was the best installment of the issue at hand here. Hands down. While I have never ever before heard of creator Stephen Cheng, his artwork is striking and very accessible, making it a pleasure to read the story. Speaking of which, the presented tale itself also proved to be very good and powerful, depicting a situation which could happen to all of us at any time in our lives. Thumbs up on this one and make sure to invite Stephen back in future issues.

"I, Assassin" featured another creative team I had never heard of before and although the artwork didn't really do it for me, the story by Nick Neubauer was well-paced and included a very nice and unexpected twist which was truly able to wrong-foot me on all counts. Still, the tale might have been too short to do the potential in it any true justice.

The "Kaos Moon" feature, though probably the one installment of this issue which was hardest to get into, in the end can be regarded as one of the better pieces of work to emerge in the pages of this series for the past year or so. I especially like the artwork, as David Boller's style is quite unique and the facial features he's doing on the characters he draws are worth the price of admission alone. The lay-out and the panel-to-panel composition could use some work, on the other hand, for now it can be hard to figure out what's going on, but other than that, I wouldn't mind seeing more of this in the upcoming issues.

Loved the "Charles Vess Sketchbook." I actually only knew him from his work on Sandman until last year, when I first laid my eyes on his current self-published work. Charles is a powerful artist and his work always is able to capture that specific and almost palpable atmosphere. My thanks for this unique peek in his sketchbook.

Finally, "To get to the Other Side" sure was one of the best two-page installments I've seen in quite some time. While the first page in itself is nothing special nor anything novel, the second and final page is what does the trick. Good job, by the way, to make sure the reader has to turn the page to find out about the conclusion of this short story. I'm sure if they had been printed next to each other, part of the magic and surprise would have been lost.

Altogether, this was definitely a better issue than last month's edition. I can't wait to find out what you have in store for us next, but in the meantime, I presume I'll first be seeing you at the San Diego Comic-Convention. Oh wait, it's Comic-Con International now. Oh well.

David Boller's KAOS MOON #1 should be on sale any time now. It's a visual treat and should be one of the most talked about series of the year. It really is beautiful work.

Andrew Ford
amf@servtech.com

Joe,

Hiya! I just picked up my copy of NEGATIVE BURN #34 today, so I thought I'd share my feelings on it's contents.

The "Dominique" story leading things off was great (as are all the "Dominique" stories I've read so far). Hunter did a fine job illustrating this tale. Dominique is a great character for use in this way, because of all the "stuff" we don't know about her past, that you can keep dragging up. I admit I enjoy the full-length stories better, but these shorts are nice little snacks to keep us hungry for more.

I wasn't too thrilled with "Terror Tots." Don't get me wrong, the writing and art were just fine. I'm just not real "into" the whole cute-cartoony thing (the closest thing I read that comes close to that is BONE).

This month's installment of "Mr. Mamoulian" was a bit of a disappointment. It read real well all the way through...until the end, that is. It just kinda died, unlike the usual bang pow ending I'm use to. Oh well, I guess I just didn't get it. My loss, I suppose.

"My Marie" was great. I look forward to seeing more from this talented creator. Is he doing anything on a regular basis? His stuff is really funny, honest and cool.

"No Regrets" is the kinda thing you have to be reading since the beginning. Luckily, I've caught enough episodes to know what's going on. Nicholson seems to be weaving a very straight forward tale about dream life being better than real life, at first glance. On closer inspection, however, I think I picked up on a lot of little "things". I am curious to see where this story line will end up.

"I, Assassin" seemed like the kinda thing that would have fit better in MY old science fiction anthology, COSMIC WAVES. I enjoyed it, twist ending and all, but it just didn't seem like the kinda thing that would be in NEGATIVE BURN. I better not complain. Next you'll be running stories about a giant worm roaming the streets...er...forget I said that. <grin>

"The Origins of the Worm Cult" was hilarious. This is another guy who I'd like to see more of. Is

he doing anything regularly? I thought the ending was great, especially when they totally judge the two idiots and then say, we're here to educate not judge.

"Happenstance" didn't really thrill me too much. The art was very involved (maybe a bit too involved), but the story just didn't have much of an impact on me. I think it would have worked better in three or four pages (or just shorter somehow). It made it's point early, and then just dragged on from there.

I won't even get into "Kaos Moon." Bottom line, the art was WAY too busy, and the story really seemed to jump around. Oh well, what can I say, just not my cup of tea I suppose.

"Quentin Who?" was kinda funny. I have to admit I've been seeing his face all over the place (and it's been a while since PULP FICTION). I guess it all comes down to: is he really a genius...or not?

"Poor George" was kinda weird. I mean, the ending was kinda lame and all, but it was stupid enough to make ya laugh (like SNL). Also, I was glad to see Tyim Courts get some exposure. His work is great, and it was cool to see his work published full-size (I'm used to seeing his mini-comics).

"Charles Vess' Sketchbook" was simply amazing. But Charles is simple amazing, so it's no surprise. STARDUST looks very interesting.

"Paintwork" and "To Get to the Other Side" were...ok. I don't have anything bad to say about them, they just failed to really grab my attention.

"My Life as Riley" was excellent! Again, I must ask...what is this guy doing (actually, what are both of these guys doing?) Powerful, powerful stuff, to say the least. A great note to end things on. Smart move.

This is probably a dumb question, but...where was everybody this issue? I mean, no Zander Cannon, No Terry Moore, No Alan Moore, No Budd Root, No Rob Haines, etc. It almost seemed like everyone had this issue off. Oh well, I realize that these creators have their own books (as do I), and cannot be producing stuff for NEGATIVE BURN every issue...it'd be nice though, eh!

I thought I'd give the "name" creators a month off and instead showcase a bunch of really great "up and comers." You got a problem with that? Heck, I'd love to see all the guys you mentioned above in every issue, but there's just too many talented creators out there that I had to squeeze some people out.

You'll be happy to know that Stephen Cheng will be back in these pages in the next month or so, so be watching. I'd love to see if I can get him to do some regular work. We'll see, I guess.

By the way, all you readers out there should look out for Andrew's intriguing comic, RIB. Give it a chance, you may like. Hey, it's been compared to MAUS, so it must be pretty good. For a sneak preview, check out NB #40 where RIB will have an all-new short story for your reading pleasure.

Gelb D. Boon
via American Online

Joe,

Since I haven't written for awhile, I'll just flip through this stack of NB's (32-34) and highlight my favorites, #34 being the standout issue.

I'm not going to read "Iron Empires," until the serial is complete.

"No Regrets," was a strong piece throughout. Compliments to Jeff Nicholson for maintaining high quality installments throughout every issue. Ask Jeff for me if it's semi-autobiographical.

"Survivors," was another excellent piece. I'll definitely look for more chapters or the comic as it becomes available.

"Kilroy is Here," was thoughtful and the art was terrific. The one drawback was that the tagline was a little redundant (sorry, Joe!).

"Charon," was good to see in this well done adaptation.

"JackKnife," also stood out in issue #33.

It would have helped me to be a bit more familiar with the "Dominique" character to enjoy "Payback." But it was still a good little ditty.

"The Terror Tots" were pretty cool, it's just a matter of time 'till Saban Entertainment licenses them out! Fricke's style is perfect for Strazewski's tykes.

Stephen Cheng cranked out another winner. His might be my favorite works in NB. Of course I like Greg DiGenti's work a lot, too.

I'm not sure if I followed "Knute's Escape" in issue #35, but it's fun to try to figure it out.

Jesse Reklaw's page was a goody. As was "Change," and "Horman."

Sorry for the brevity and lack of insight in this letter, but I was overwhelmed by having to comment on four issues. I promise to make a few more constructive criticisms for issue #36.

One thing that's kind of disturbing is the number of action/adventure, pseudo super hero stories that are creeping into these pages. While some are neat and entertaining, they're kind of out of place. I'm not saying I don't like this kind of work, it's just nice to get away from it, and NB is usually a good subterfuge.

I commend you again on bringing new talent to these pages. It's incredible how many good creators are around, if only there were enough comics to highlight their work. I'm sorry to hear that you're overwhelmed with work right now. Best of luck to you in catching up! Keep on!

The first rule about NB is that there no rules. I've never thought of NB as having anything "out of place." NB is a place where anything and, often times, everything is possible. I understand your concern and I do try not to have too many action/adventure type stories in NB, but if I like a story of that genre (like this issue's new serial "The Brutalizers") than I'll put it in.

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In ancient Judea, a woman is to be put to death for blasphemous tales. Thousands of years away, in present day, Brandon, an alcoholic artist, learns from his dying father that he has a brother that was kept locked away for fear he was the Bandy Man, a creature God left unfinished. By Stefan Petrucha, Charlie Adlard, Jill Thompson and Miran Kim.

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No dream berries, no tricks, just flat out one-on-one fury as Cavewoman collides with Klyde, her uncle's super-powered gorilla! Don't miss this one. By Budd Root.

KABUKI: MASKS OF THE NOH #3 (OF 3)
Through a web of underworld empires and a rival government organization, the agents of the Noh discover what became of Kabuki. Then, with a vengeance, they tackle the problem head on! Featuring artwork by Terry Moore (Strangers in Paradise), Rick Mays, Timothy Bradstreet and Michael Avon Oeming.

KINGDOM OF THE WICKED #1
Christopher Grahame is the foremost children's author of his age, yet simple stories for his children have grown into a commercial success and the pressure takes its toll. Chris is plagued with headaches and blackouts and he slips back into the realm of Castrolvalva, a fantastical domain he dreamt up as a boy. But Castrolvalva has changed into a surreal nightmare of mud, blood and barbed wire as it is torn apart by war. By Ian Edginton and D'Israeli.

MIKE DEODATO COMICS: RAZOR NIGHTS #1
This is an adults only foray into sex, drugs and rock n' roll. A powerful, addictive, illegal drug called "Razor" is introduced into the U.S. -- and its users binge on raw, wild sex and maniacal violence. Art by Mike Deodato Jr.

NEGATIVE BURN #38
This issue features: "The Brutalizers" by Martin Conaghan, Alex Ronald and Mike Perkins, Ted Slampyak returns with "Suzi Romaine", "Kingdom of the Wicked" short story by Ian Edginton and D'Israeli, and many more...

SCARLET IN GASLIGHT GN
An epic mystery pits the super sleuth, Sherlock Holmes against supernatural forces of the evil count as Moriarty enlists the help of Dracula to plunge London into a new dark age. This graphic novel collects the Eisner Nominated four issue series originally published by Eternity Comics in 1987, with an all new cover by Vincent Locke.

TATTOO #4
Tattoo continues her search for the Gatekeeper, a mysterious man who can access portals to the necromantic nether world from which the zombies come. Tattoo also comes into the possession of the famed "Daemonsword"! By Ralph Griffith, Stuart Kerr, Michael Larson, Sam Varney and Mike Mikolajczyk.

THE WRETCH #1
From the pages of Negative Burn comes the weirdest comic book hero of the nineties-- The Wretch! From the bizarre imagination of creator Phillip Hester comes three stories set in Glass City: the haunting "Rain Babies", the hilarious "Tales from the Camaro" and the action-packed "Mandelbrodt's Leaf".

New Worlds

CONSTRUCT #3 (OF 6)
The question of how the Constructs developed the capacity for thought emerges this issue when the story flashes back to the time when the humans where upon the planet Eden. By Paul Jenkins and Leo Durañona.

DAEMONSTORM PROLOGUE
This is a preview of the *Daemonstorm* saga that runs six issues and crosses over into four established series! A mass of black energy dubbed Ebonous Prime supplies life to a space faring civilization until it becomes sentient and...evil. Written by Tim Parsons and Joe Martin, with art by Armando Gil. Only 99¢!!

DREAMLANDS #1
Six test patients experience the nightmarish world of Dreamlands when they embark on the journey to bridge the gap between consciousness and fantasy. Written by Dan Harbison, penciled by Randy Brock and inked by *Spawn* artist Jason Baumgartner.

LEGENDLORE #5
Dominic is torn between his code of honor and the guilt of having killed the son of the woman he loves. Drohm prepares for war with Carahill and the corrupt Lady Falla. And much more...By Joe Martin, Philip Xavier.

NEW WORLDS Anthology #5
This issue contains part five of the never-before-seen Mister X written by Ian Edginton with art by Ken Holewczynski. Plus, German artist Horus' "Great Legends of Space and Rock n' Roll", "Antrax" part five by Richard Rainey and Rob Hand, Mark Paulik's "KT Model 103" and a new story "Temple", by Joey Robinson and Duane Schilz.

RAVEN CHRONICLES #10
"Deadlands", is a tale of modern horror, as the team of Raven, Inc. is called to a ghost town in the Ukraine to investigate reports of a glowing killer prowling on a nearby village. By Eric Jackson with art by Paul Kowalski. *As a bonus, Wordsmith #6 will be included at no extra cost.*

THE SEARCHERS #3
With the Nautilus now theirs, The Searchers set out to stop the Ministry from carrying out their experiment with The Book. They quickly learn of the ancient ships powers while fighting off a ferocious attack. By Colin Clayton, Chris Dows, and Art Wetherall. *As a bonus, Wordsmith #5 will be included at no extra cost.*

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